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Amendments to the Claims

APR 07 2009

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A recombinant genetic construct, ~~adapted to encode~~ encoding a dengue viral genome, comprising:

~~A full genome length nucleic acid clone a full-length genome of a dengue virus genome having wherein the construct is modified at a 13-amino acid-encoding region just proximal to the pr-M cleavage site which is devoid of negatively-charged amino acid acids and contains additional positively-charged amino acid acids as compared with the prototype relative to a wild-type dengue virus.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The genetic construct of claim 1, comprising wherein said genetic construct comprises DNA.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus ~~having a genome comprising:~~

~~A full genome length nucleic acid clone a full-length genome of a dengue virus genome having wherein the virus comprises a 13-amino acid-encoding region just proximal to the pr-M cleavage site which is devoid of negatively-charged amino acid acids and contains additional positively-charged amino acid acids as compared with the relative to a wild type dengue virus.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 which contains less prM protein on viral envelope than the prototype dengue virus due to an enhanced internal cleavage of the prM protein.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the virus induces infected C6/36 mosquito cell line to fuse at the neutral pH to a greater extent than the prototype dengue a wild type virus. Induction of infected C6/36 cell fusion by the mutant dengue virus occurs well at 29°C, but is less efficient at 40°C.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the virus is exported out of the infected cells to a lesser extent than the prototype a wild type dengue virus, resulting in a lower virus titer in the culture medium.

Claim 7 (new) The genetic construct of claim 1 wherein said genetic construct encodes a mutant prM protein which substantially identical to the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 8 (new): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the cell fusion by the mutant dengue virus is best at 29°C.

Claim 9 (new): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the cell fusion by the mutant dengue virus is less efficient at 40°C.